



# AMERICAN OBSERVER

News and Issues—With Pros and Cons

VOLUME 24, NUMBER 20

WASHINGTON, D. C.

FEBRUARY 7, 1955

## Here and Abroad

People—Places—Events

### MANEUVERS IN ALASKA

Army and Air Force units, including 3,000 paratroopers, are carrying on war games in Alaska this month. Defenders are opposing a mock invasion along a route that Russia might try to use if she started war against us.

### BOOKS FOR AFRICA

With the aid of American students and cooperating steamship companies, the Reverend James Robinson, a New York minister, has sent over 115,000 textbooks to the African lands of Liberia, Nigeria, and the Gold Coast. If your school wishes to send some books to Africa, you may mail them to Reverend Robinson, 119 West 57th Street, New York City.

### FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

If Congress approves President Eisenhower's request for higher government salaries, California, with 228,000 federal employees, and the Washington, D. C., area, with about 226,000 will benefit most. New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Illinois, each with more than 100,000 federal workers, also stand to gain.

### LIFE INSURANCE SALES

With sales of around 40 billion dollars in new policies for 1954, American life insurance companies had a record year. They have grown steadily, despite fears some people expressed in the 1930's that government social security programs would ruin private insurance businesses.

### BRITAIN'S TRAFFIC JAM

We all know well the traffic problems in our country, which has about 1 car for every 4 persons. With only around 1 car for every 23 persons, Britain also has a traffic headache. Her chief trouble is that no new major roads have been built since 1936. A big-scale construction program is just now getting under way.

### NEW BASE FOR NATO

Work has started near Bergen, Norway, on a new naval base that would be available to members of NATO, the European defense organization, in case of war. Piers for ships, and repair shops are to be built into hollowed-out mountains. NATO countries are sharing the cost, which may exceed \$50,000,000.

### BRITISH EXPORT RECORD

Britain's export industries set an all-time record in 1954. They sold nearly 7½ billion dollars of their goods to foreign lands.

### SCOUTS CELEBRATING

Boy Scouts of America are observing Scout Week February 6 to 12 with demonstrations and exhibits showing the activities of the organization. Organized in 1910, the Scouts now have a membership of more than 3,600,000 boys and adult leaders.



MOST CENTRAL AMERICAN nations have large Indian populations. The two young women shown above are Guatemalans.

## Poverty Is Widespread in Central American Lands

U. S. Leaders Are Disturbed About Unsettled Conditions in Small, Agricultural Nations to the South

**P**OLITICS in Central America reminds one of the region's active volcanoes. There is a constant boiling and bubbling and flaring of sparks. A new eruption may—or may not—take place at any moment. No one knows for certain.

The bitter dispute between Costa Rica and Nicaragua appeared to be under control, temporarily at least, last week. Prompt action by the Organization of American States (OAS) checked the rebellion against the Costa Rican government. Present leaders of that country still insist, however, that Nicaragua supported the Costa Rican rebels, and bad feeling between the two lands continues to exist.

The attempted overthrow of the Guatemalan government, which received much U. S. attention at the time it occurred, failed when President Castillo Armas of that country acted forcefully. Political and economic unrest continues to plague Guatemala, however.

There is still tension in Panama, following the assassination of President José Remón, but the confessed killer is in custody and the present chief executive, Ricardo Espinosa, seems to

have the situation now under control.

No one would dare to prophesy that these are the last crises which Central America will experience. The basic causes underlying the unsettled state of affairs remain. It is with ample reason that this area to the south has been called "the Balkans of the Americas." (The Balkan region in southern Europe has been notorious for years as a trouble spot and a breeding ground for war.)

U. S. leaders are deeply concerned about the situation in Central America. At a time when we are involved in a cold war in the Far East and in Europe, it is disturbing to find an international trouble spot only a few hundred miles from our southern border. It is disquieting, too, to know that these unsettled conditions exist so close to the Panama Canal. This waterway is of the utmost importance to us in both peace and war.

What is behind all the turmoil in Central America? How can such disturbances be prevented? What is this troubled area like?

Central America is the narrow bridge connecting the great land

(Continued on page 6)

## U. S. Crime Rate Growing Rapidly

Nation Is Worried About High Percentage of Teen-Agers Among the Offenders

**T**HE year 1954 was a record-breaker in many respects—some good, some bad. On the bad side was a new peak for the number of serious crimes committed in this country. According to a preliminary estimate by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, a Justice Department agency, the number of serious offenses in 1954 was about 5 per cent higher than in the previous record-breaking year of 1953. This would mean about 2¼ million crimes last year—6,200 per day, or over 4 per minute.

In terms of percentages, our country's crime rate is growing two or three times as fast as its population.

There were 13 per cent more burglaries in the first half of 1954 than in the corresponding part of 1953, and there were 20 per cent more robberies by force or violence. Thefts and burglaries continue to be the most frequent types of serious crime.

One of the most disturbing facts about crime in America is the number of young people involved. In a group of over 1,100 cities which made special reports to the FBI for 1953, about half of all the arrested burglars and car thieves were 17 years old or under. Latest available figures indicate that crime is increasing several times as rapidly among youths as among adults.

J. Edgar Hoover, the FBI Director, recently stated that there is probably one lawbreaker or "juvenile delinquent" out of every 18 youths in the 15-through-17 age group. More than a million young people between the ages of 10 and 18 get into trouble with the police each year.

Crime among youths—particularly teen-agers—is one of the most serious problems facing our country today. Even so, quite a few teen-agers resent the fact that so much publicity is given—in newspapers, magazines, and elsewhere—to "juvenile delinquency." Such publicity, they argue, causes too many adults to assume that our whole youth population is made up of thugs and hoodlums.

Young people point out—correctly—that most American teen-agers do not get into trouble with law-enforcement authorities. The great majority take seriously their responsibilities as young citizens in the home, school, community, and nation. But this fact shouldn't lead us to ignore juvenile crime, any more than we would ignore a crippling disease such as polio just because it afflicts only a minority.

One of the worst features of juvenile crime is that it so often leads the individual into a lifetime "career" of wrongdoing. Large numbers of the

(Concluded on page 2)



# Crime Problem Keeps Growing

(Concluded from page 1)

adult men and women who enter prison for serious offenses are people whose criminal records go back to early youth.

We need not spend much time, at this point, discussing the types of crimes which young people are now committing. Magazines and daily newspapers regularly carry a vast amount of material about such offenses. Burglary, robbery, assaults with deadly weapons, brutal murders, use of narcotics—all these and many more are included. Law-enforcement officials tell us, moreover, that youthful criminals generally act with far more recklessness and viciousness than do older offenders.

The older criminal may commit murder in a moment of anger, or may become involved in various offenses to obtain what he hopes will be "easy money." Younger lawbreakers, on the other hand, are more likely to commit their crimes "just for orneriness," and as a deliberate display of insolent contempt toward law and decency.

## Vandalism

This is especially true in connection with the large-scale vandalism that occurs in so many parts of our country. Some time ago it was reported that vandals—teen-aged and even younger—were doing \$100,000 worth of damage each year to the school buildings of Baltimore, \$400,000 worth to the schools in Chicago, \$300,000 worth—or more—to houses under construction in Detroit, and over \$200,000 worth of damage to parks and recreation grounds in New York City—to give only a few examples.

Such facts raise two questions: (1) What are the main causes of juvenile crime, and (2) how can it be reduced?

These are questions that affect everybody. Crime, whether committed by young people or adults, isn't confined to a remote "underworld." It is not something that the average citizen can simply read about in his newspaper and then forget. It harms or endangers us all. We never know when we or members of our families will be victims. Crime reaches out and seeks to corrupt our governments—local, state, and national.

In examining such a question as "What causes crime?" we must always

bear in mind the fact that there is no simple answer. There are all sorts of forces at work, turning people's lives into channels of lawlessness.

For example, we often hear that the slums of our big cities are great breeders of crime. This is true. The slums produce more than their proportionate share of offenders, both youthful and adult. Young people in such areas generally don't have playgrounds or other facilities for wholesome recreation. Living in miserable surroundings, they often become convinced that mankind in general is against them, and so they turn against society.

But there are many families which, even in undesirable surroundings, do a fine job of raising their children. On the other hand, there are families in wealthy neighborhoods which do not. Within the last year or so, teenagers from attractive residential districts have been charged with such crimes as shoplifting, wantonly damaging parked cars, and going on sprees of destruction with homemade bombs. Such youths apparently become bored and restless because their parents give them everything—except discipline and proper supervision.

Some people blame the development of big cities for our nation's growing problems of crime and juvenile delinquency. But, while a major share of the nation's lawlessness does occur in large cities, crime has actually been increasing at a faster rate during the last few years in small towns and rural areas.

Many Americans feel that the schools and churches need to play a more effective role than at present in guiding America's young people. Certainly it is true that a community with well-operated schools and strong, alert religious organizations is in an excellent position to help its youths become good and reliable citizens. But schools and churches can't do the whole job.

A vast amount of responsibility for the development of a young person's character rests squarely upon his parents. Invaluable training in honesty and responsibility can be given in the home. If a child is to become a useful citizen, somebody must teach him that there is work to be done, and help him avoid the notion that he must be kept amused and entertained all the



THE NATION'S DOUBLE DUTY is to seek the cause and cure for crime, as well as to catch those who break our laws

time. In nearly all cases, the parents are in a better position than anyone else to give such training.

If a home is "broken" by death or divorce, if it is constantly disrupted by quarrels, or if excessive drinking occurs there, such conditions raise tremendous obstacles for any children involved. Many youths can surmount such obstacles without losing their balance and without falling into crime, but many others cannot.

Parents, meanwhile, complain that it is becoming increasingly difficult to teach decency and good behavior in a world where young people are constantly being exposed to stories—both true and imaginary—of crime, violence, and brutality. Television programs, movies, and comic books show an endless procession of criminals and "tough guys," until young people may almost unconsciously get the idea that arrogance and violence are normal ways of behaving.

Authorities disagree considerably as to whether comic books and various other forms of entertainment actually play a major role in stirring up crime among youths. The comic-book industry itself, meanwhile, is making an apparent effort to weed out such drawings and stories as have been receiving especially severe criticism.

In any discussion of juvenile crime, one point which cannot be ignored is the fact that there are adults who deliberately promote it. Undoubtedly the worst of these are the sellers of illegal narcotics, who actually try to enslave as many people as they can—young and old—with the "dope" habit. Some authorities estimate that there are at least 25,000 teen-aged narcotics users in America. A U. S. senator recently introduced a bill which, if enacted, would provide a death penalty for anyone twice convicted of selling dope to youths.

The importance of cracking down on adults who promote teen-age crime, or knowingly permit it, is becoming more

and more widely recognized. But what is to be done about the criminal and delinquent youths themselves?

Many authorities are coming around to the belief that our courts, in general, are too soft on young offenders. It is argued that youths too often are allowed to swagger away from juvenile court, practically unpunished for fairly serious misdeeds. Judges in a number of cities, on the other hand, recently have reported considerable success in fighting juvenile crime by sending young offenders to jail for a while and letting them see what it is like.

## Two Systems

In Chicago, under this plan, a special cellblock has been set aside for teen-aged boys, where they can be kept separated from older criminals. In Brooklyn, however, there is a judge who thinks a young person is likely to develop more of a distaste for jail if he spends a day or two with the adult offenders who are confined there—and gets a close-up as to the type of men they really are.

Most observers agree that our communities and our whole nation should give greatly increased attention to the problem of handling young offenders. We need reformatories that will really serve as correctional institutions, rather than as "schools of crime." The latter is too often the case. We need more trained probation officers to keep track carefully and systematically of the youths who are set free and given another chance.

Most of all we need public awareness of the fact that crime is a growing problem in America, and public determination to do something about it. Youths and adults alike can study their own communities, try to learn what conditions are promoting crime there, and use all the influence they can to get those conditions corrected. Crime tends to weaken our nation, and we should not hold back—either with time or money—in combatting it.

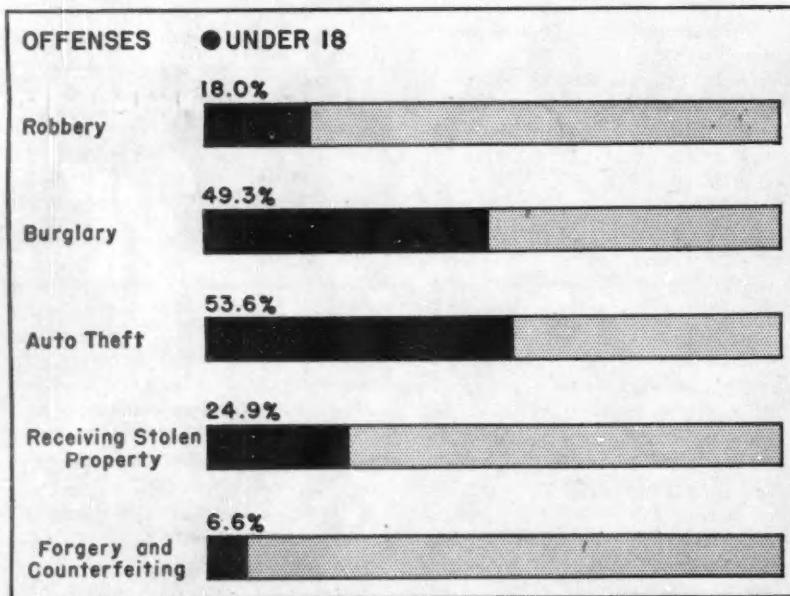


CHART shows the percentage of youths under 18 among all persons arrested for crimes against property. Figures are latest available from 1,174 cities.



## Readers Say—

No, I don't think we should rearm West Germany. That country might some day side with the Soviets if Moscow continues to support the idea of unifying East and West Germany.

GORDON VESTRE,  
Chambersburg, Pennsylvania

West Germany realizes the dangers of communism. She has seen the brutality of the Soviets close at hand. I am certain, therefore, that the Germans will never join forces with Russia. If we rearm Germany, she will be a powerful addition to the free world's defense forces.

ANNE MEYER,  
Richmond, Virginia

The communists have already gained many new territories in various parts of the globe by promising land reforms and a better living standard to hungry people. We know that the Red promise is a trick. People who fight a daily battle with hunger don't always know this. We must step in and help the poverty-stricken Asians so they will not be taken in by false Red promises.

DONALD BARRACO,  
Pontiac, Michigan

People who oppose aid to Asia have a convincing argument when they say: "Helping the Asians has about the same effect as tossing a pebble into a lake." I wonder if these people have ever noticed, though, how far ripples of a thrown pebble travel. A little aid to Asian lands will also go a long way.

CAROL WILSON,  
Seattle, Washington

Now that more and more Americans are getting TV sets, why shouldn't we have televised meetings of Congress? This would help us gain a better understanding of our democracy at work.

TED DAVILA,  
Silver Spring, Maryland

It seems to me that we should give more financial aid to Latin America than we do. We gave Yugoslavia, a doubtful ally, twice as much money as we did to our loyal southern neighbors last year.

JEROME MORGAN,  
Conception, Missouri

At our school, the Lakeview High School, we have special citizenship education projects. From time to time we go over community problems, such as the issue of providing adequate fire protection for our homes.

NANCY MYERS,  
Decatur, Illinois



"TWENTY QUESTIONS," a quiz show, is starting its tenth year on the air. Above are panelists Fred Van Deventer, Florence Rinard (Mrs. Van Deventer), Bobby McGuire (the Van Deventer son), and Herb Polesie.

## Radio-TV-Movies

EIGHT thousand questions—that's approximately the number that have been asked on the popular television program, "Twenty Questions," now starting its 10th year on the air. Beginning as a radio presentation in 1946, the quiz show shifted to TV about five years ago. It has won many honors, including commendations from the U. S. Office of Education and the Voice of America.

"Twenty Questions" originated as a family parlor game in the Detroit home of Fred Van Deventer. The Van Deventers liked to play the familiar "animal, vegetable, mineral" game, and the thought occurred to them that it might make a good radio program. They succeeded in getting it on the air, and "Twenty Questions" proved at once to be a hit.

The show has had remarkably few changes over the years. Among the regular panelists, Fred Van Deventer and Herb Polesie have never missed a performance. Fred's wife, Florence Rinard, has missed only one. The Van Deventers' son, known professionally as Bobby McGuire, has been a member of the panel most of the time. There is also a guest panelist

each performance, usually a celebrity. "Twenty Questions" is currently seen over the ABC television network each Tuesday from 8:30 to 9 p.m. (EST).

If talk of far-off places appeals to you, you will probably like "Travel Time," a new weekly feature of the ABC radio network. Two travel experts—Henry Milo and Phillip Andrews—talk entertainingly about world travel, interview a guest, and answer questions sent in by listeners. The program is heard each Sunday from 7:45 to 8 p.m. (EST).

Did you ever wonder how movie producers are able to shoot commercial films on U. S. naval ships? Or how they can sometimes use an Army camp as the scene of a film drama?

The answer is that the U. S. Department of Defense cooperates with the commercial film makers under certain conditions. If the movie gives a favorable impression of the armed forces or assists in recruiting, the government will permit its naval craft to be used and will give the film makers access to Army posts.

## Birthdays of Three Great Americans

By Walter E. Myer



Walter E. Myer

FEBRUARY is the birth month of three of our greatest Americans—Thomas Edison, Abraham Lincoln, and George Washington (in the order of their birthdays). The lives of these men provide us with valuable lessons from which we can profit today.

Edison, whose birthday is next Friday—February 11—triumphed over a serious physical ailment to become probably the greatest inventor in history. As the result of a boyhood accident, he became deaf at an early age. To many young people, such a catastrophe would have been a crushing blow, but Edison turned it to his advantage.

The youth found that his deafness permitted him to concentrate all the better on mental problems. Untroubled by the interruption of outside sounds, he promptly plunged into scientific experiments that led to the invention of the electric-light bulb, the

phonograph, the motion-picture machine, and many other devices.

Lincoln, whose birth date is one day after that of Edison, conquered handicaps of environment. Brought up on the frontier, he had little opportunity for schooling. "When I came of age," he wrote later, "I did not know much . . . I could read, write, and multiply up to, and including, the table of three, but that was all."

But this frontier youth educated himself. He read and reread the few good books that came into his hands. In the general store—a social gathering place in his community—he developed his gift for speaking in public. Through rail splitting, plowing, and other back-breaking toil, he learned self-reliance. Lincoln proved that if one wants to get ahead, he can do so in spite of overwhelming obstacles.

Washington, whose birthday we observe on February 22, was the product of a comfortably situated family in the tidewater area of Virginia. At a young age, he moved to Mt.

Vernon and settled down to farming—the work he enjoyed most of all.

Yet when his countrymen called him, Washington unhesitatingly left his comfortable way of life, and for eight long—and oftentimes discouraging—years commanded his country's armies in the War for Independence. Then, against his wishes, he spent eight more years in public life as first President of his nation.

The examples set by these great Americans can be a never-ending source of inspiration for all of us.

### Pronunciations

Anastas Mikoyan—ā-nā'stās mī-kaw'yān  
Anastasio Somoza—ā-nās-tā'syō sō-mō'sā  
Calderon Guardia—kāl'dā-rōn' gwār-dē'ā  
Castillo Armas—kā-stēl'yō ār'mās  
Ichiro Hatoyama—ē-chē-rō hā-tō-yā-mā  
José Figueres—hō-zā' fē-gwā'rēs  
José Guizado—hō-zā' gē-zā'dō  
José Remón—hō-zā' rā-mōn'  
Managua—mā-nā'gwā  
Ricardo Espinosa—rī-kār'dō ēs-pī-nō'sā

## SMILES

Professor: Today I will lecture on the evils of lying. How many of you read my latest book on this subject?

Nearly all hands were raised.

Professor: That's fine. You're the group to whom I wish to speak. I have not written on this topic.

Father (to his son who had just been given a new shovel): Why aren't you digging?

Son: I don't want to run a good thing into the ground.

Pet shop salesman to lady customer: You say the parrot you bought here yesterday won't talk? Did you give it a chance?

Sergeant: Company, attention! Lift up your left leg and hold it straight out in front of you.

One of the rookies became nervous. He held out his right leg by mistake so that it was next to his buddy's left leg.

Sergeant: O. K.—who's the joker holding up both legs?

Kit: My music teacher says I have a fine voice and should go far.

Kat: Splendid! I'll help you pack.

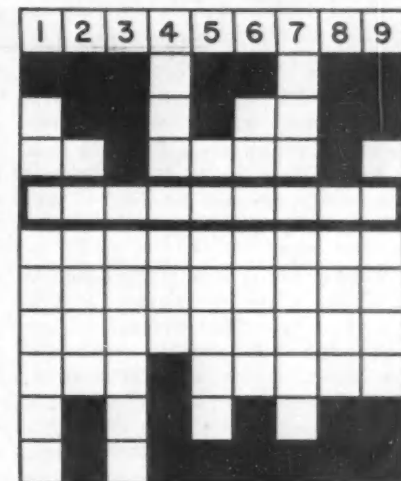
Ted: If I stand on my head, my blood rushes into it. But why doesn't my blood rush to my feet when I stand on them?

Ned: Your feet aren't empty.

### CURRENT AFFAIRS PUZZLE

Fill in numbered vertical rows according to descriptions given below. When all are correctly finished, heavy rectangle will spell the name of a country.

1. Largest Central American nation in area.
2. One of Central America's two leading export products.
3. Main language in the region.
4. The FBI is a part of the Department of \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The other of Central America's two leading export products.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ must bear heavy responsibility in creating conditions that will encourage youth to avoid criminal temptations.
7. Sea to the east of Central America.
8. Whether \_\_\_\_\_ books lead young people to criminal acts is a much-disputed issue.
9. Central American land in which the United States has a big stake.



### Last Week

HORIZONTAL: two thirds. VERTICAL: 1. Taipei; 2. Wilson; 3. Cooper; 4. interest; 5. Hughes; 6. Okinawa; 7. borrows; 8. deficit; 9. fiscal.



# The Story of the Week

## People in the News

General Matthew Ridgway, U. S. Army Chief of Staff, will continue in his present post even though he will reach retirement age next March 3. At that time, the World War II paratrooper veteran will be 60 years old. President Eisenhower and Secretary of the Army Robert Stevens recently asked General Ridgway to stay on as military head of the Army for a while. The general agreed to do so.

Ichiro Hatoyama, premier of Japan, has dissolved his country's House of Representatives, thus clearing the way for new elections on February 27. In the forthcoming contest, new legislators will be elected. They, in turn, will choose a premier. Hatoyama feels certain that enough of his supporters will win at the polls to insure his return to power.

Anastas Mikoyan was recently ousted from his post as Russia's director of foreign and domestic trade. The 59-year-old Mikoyan had been one of the top Soviet leaders since 1938. Observers believe that he was forced out of his post as a result of a new shake-up in Moscow's ruling group.

## J. Edgar Hoover

In the minds of most Americans, the name of J. Edgar Hoover is closely linked with our war on crime. FBI chief Hoover, who is 60 years old, has headed the nation's leading anti-crime agency since 1924.

Born in Washington, D. C., Hoover once wanted to become a minister. Later, he changed his mind and studied law instead. As a lawyer, he went to



FBI CHIEF J. Edgar Hoover

work for the Justice Department during World War I. In 1921, Hoover became assistant director of the Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice, as the FBI was then called. Three years later, he was temporarily assigned as chief of that office. He is still holding that "temporary" post.

Before Hoover took over as the nation's top crime investigator, jobs in his office were filled by political appointments without much regard for the qualifications of office-seekers. Hoover weeded out unqualified workers and adopted a policy of employing only trained persons as investigators.

In the 1930's, the name of Hoover's agency was changed to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. At about the same time, his G-men (government men) became national heroes because of their successful fight against crime.



**ARCTIC FASHIONS.** The women are displaying different types of costumes worn by Eskimos in far northern regions. A display of the dresses was held recently in Copenhagen, Denmark. (Denmark has an Eskimo population on Greenland, the huge island in the cold North Atlantic.)

During and since World War II, the FBI has won wide praise for its skillful work in combatting espionage and subversion.

## Progress of the 84th

Congress is now in its second month of the current session. Since opening day last January 5, the lawmakers have spent much of their time in naming new members to congressional committees and in getting the legislative machinery rolling.

All told, more than 3,000 new bills have been introduced in the two houses of Congress thus far. Very few of these legislative proposals have yet been acted upon. Most of them are waiting their turn to be considered, while others are being studied by congressional committees.

Both the Senate and the House strongly supported President Eisenhower's request for authority to use American forces, if necessary, to prevent an invasion of Formosa by Red China. In addition, a Senate committee agreed to the ratification of our defense agreement with Formosa, and approved a pact with seven nations for the defense of Southeast Asia.

A total of 34 senators—17 Democrats and 17 Republicans—are supporting a proposal to grant home rule to Washington, D. C., which is now supervised by Congress. A House group began consideration of a bill to grant statehood to Alaska and Hawaii.

In addition, congressional committees are studying plans to (1) reduce our restrictions on trade with other nations; (2) increase postal rates on letters and other mail; (3) extend veterans' benefits which expired January 31; and (4) grant federal funds to the states to help build new schools.

## Government Spending

Because of heavy government spending during the depression of the 1930's and the years of war crises since then, Uncle Sam's expenditures have been greater than his income in every year except three since 1930. A table showing our yearly budget from 1947

to the present time appears below in this column. The national debt has risen about 18 billion dollars during this period, which is a small amount as compared to the tremendous increases in the war and depression years.

From the chart, it will be noted that the debt does not always rise and fall by the same amount as the surplus or deficit of a particular year. This is because of the way the government handles its financial operations.

## Weather Makes Headlines

This winter, weather is making its share of the news, particularly in Europe. In fact, many areas of Britain and the continent have been having their worst winter in years.

The United Kingdom had its heaviest snowfall in some time. There were 12-foot-high drifts in certain parts of the island nation. Airplanes had to be used to drop food to snow-bound inhabitants of Scotland.

In the Netherlands, Denmark, and other nearby areas, the icy sea, driven by powerful winds, flooded some coastal areas. Very cold weather accompanied the storms. Heavy snowfalls hit regions as far south as southern France and Italy.

Later, France's Seine River was swollen to its highest level in 31 years as a result of melting snow and heavy rainfall. Rivers elsewhere in Europe also spilled over their banks and

flooded farms and cities. All told, winter storms so far have cost about 200 lives and many millions of dollars in property damage.

Some Europeans insist that their bad weather is caused by trial explosions of atomic and hydrogen bombs. Even though most scientists in Europe and the U. S. feel there is no basis for such a belief, plans are under way to make a study of what effect, if any, H-bombs may have on weather.

## Prison Reforms?

A Boston citizens' committee is checking into the conditions of all Massachusetts prisons. The group also wants to find out what part, if any, undesirable prison standards played in bringing about last month's rebellion in Boston's Massachusetts State Prison.

The four convicts, who unsuccessfully tried to escape by offering to exchange guards held as hostages in return for their freedom, said harsh treatment prompted them to act as they did. The rebellion was ended after a citizens' group promised to check into the prisoners' complaints.

The Massachusetts incident has focused new attention on our prisons. Social welfare workers say that conditions are very poor in most of the 126 state prisons across the nation. They point out that buildings are old and uncomfortable, the food is unappetizing, and there are few recreational facilities in many prisons.

Americans are divided on the need for better prisons. Some contend that convicts shouldn't be made too comfortable while paying their debt to society for their crimes. It is also argued that it would cost more money than most states have available to improve prisons.

Other citizens believe that harsh treatment and poor prison conditions turn men, who might otherwise be reformed, into hardened criminals. It is also argued that penny-pinching policies can be costly and dangerous, for desperate criminals living in miserable surroundings can do extensive damage to prison properties.

## Bonn Says "No"

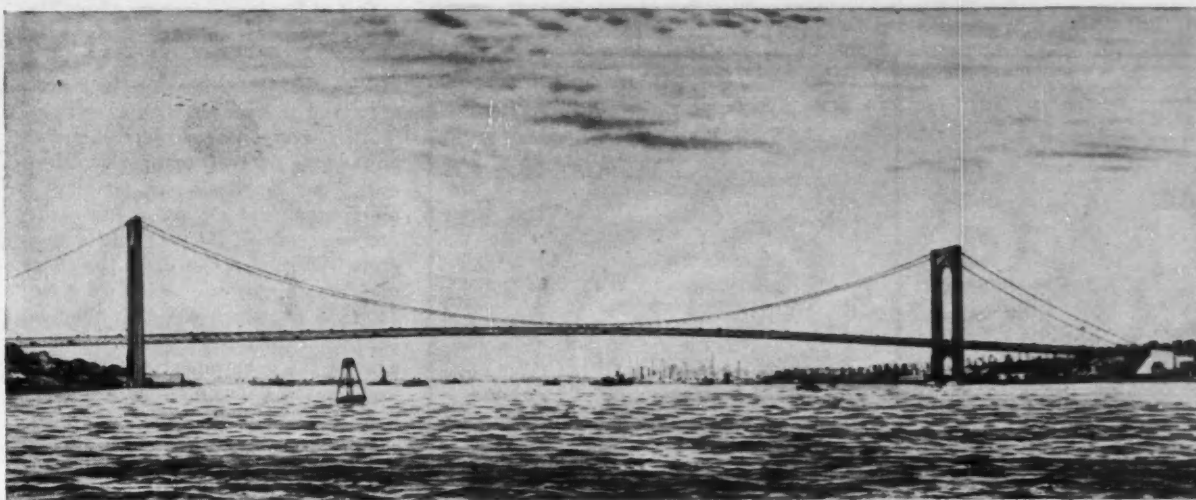
Moscow is doing all it can to prevent West Germany from approving Allied plans for making that country a western defense partner. Not long ago, Soviet Russia proposed elections in both East and West Germany and promised to work for the unification of the divided land if the Germans turned down Allied defense plans.

In an effort to convince West Ger-

## FEDERAL FINANCES

	Income	Outgo	Deficit (—) or Surplus (+)	National Debt
1947	39.8	39.0	+0.8	258.3
1948	41.5	33.1	+8.4	252.3
1949	37.7	39.5	-1.8	252.8
1950	36.5	39.6	-3.1	257.4
1951	47.6	44.1	+3.5	255.2
1952	61.4	65.4	-4.0	259.1
1953	64.8	74.2	-9.4	266.1
1954	64.7	67.8	-3.1	271.3
1955 (est.)	59.0	63.5	-4.5	274.3
1956 (est.)	60.0	62.4	-2.4	276.0





THIS SUSPENSION BRIDGE (artist's drawing) may be built across New York City Harbor between Brooklyn and Staten Island (divisions of the city) if proposed plans are adopted. With approaches, the bridge would have an overall length of  $2\frac{1}{4}$  miles. A 4,400-foot center span would be the world's longest, the planners say. Cost is estimated at \$220,000,000.

many of their "good intentions," the Soviets formally ended the state of war between Russia and Germany which had existed since World War II. The United States and other western nations had made a similar move in 1951.

The government in Bonn, West Germany's capital, quickly turned down Moscow's latest plan for a unified Germany. Konrad Adenauer, West Germany's chief, expressed the opinion that the Soviet proposal was merely a trick. He gave these and other reasons for turning it down:

(1) The Reds gave no guarantees that the proposed all-German elections would be free; (2) the plan asked Bonn, in effect, to break with its allies on the basis of a vague promise that East and West Germany might some day be united; and (3) the proposal required Germany to remain unarmed and helpless in the face of powerful Red forces beyond its eastern frontiers.

Western leaders are pleased with Bonn's speedy rejection of the Soviet proposal. At the same time, they are worried because opposition to Adenauer's pro-western policies is growing stronger day by day in West Germany. A number of Germans want, above all else, to have their nation united once more. These persons fear that unification of East and West Germany might become impossible if Bonn goes ahead with Allied rearmament plans and turns its back on Moscow.

Nevertheless, most Allied observers believe Bonn will approve plans for joining the western nations as a defense partner. The issue is expected to come up for a decision in West Germany's legislature very soon.

### Our Embassy in Moscow

Next to the Soviet government and its various enterprises, Uncle Sam occupies more floor space than anyone else in Russia's capital city of Moscow. Our Embassy there occupies two 10-story buildings, one 7-story structure, and two large mansions.

About 125 Americans and 75 Russian people work in these buildings. A recreational club, set up by Americans stationed in Moscow, provides U. S. movies and other forms of entertainment for our representatives in the Soviet capital.

Though certain buildings owned by the U. S. in Moscow are fairly new, Americans there say it is not unusual to see plaster falling from the ceilings. Elevators rarely work. In fact, Charles Bohlen, our ambassador to Moscow, frequently has to toil up nine flights of stairs to his office because of elevator trouble.

### We Hope for Peace

The free nations are keeping an anxious eye on Formosa and other nearby islands held by Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists. A false move by Red China in that part of the globe could set off a major war.

In recent weeks, fighting between Red Chinese and Chiang forces for the control of outlying Nationalist islands has increased in intensity. Because of the growing threat to Formosa, President Eisenhower asked Congress for authority to take whatever measures he feels are needed to protect that

island and the nearby Pescadores from a Red assault. Late last month, the Senate and the House overwhelmingly backed the President on this issue.

Meanwhile, we and other western nations are asking the United Nations to arrange a truce between the Nationalists and the Reds. Last week, the UN met to consider this request.

Will the UN be able to agree on a satisfactory Pacific truce agreement? Will our strong actions to prevent Red Chinese aggression in that area lead to large-scale war? Or will the Chinese communists back down and agree to a peaceful settlement of the Pacific dispute? These are some of the questions now being asked by people around the globe.

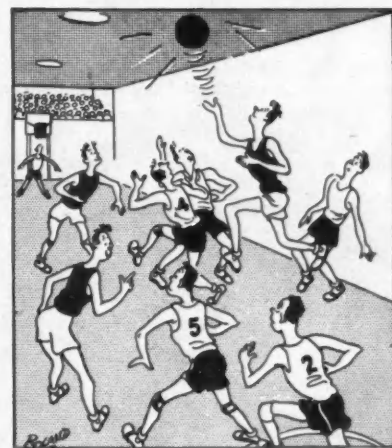
### Next Week's Articles

Unless unforeseen developments arise, next week's major articles will be (1) Italy, and (2) labor's demands for a guaranteed annual wage.

## The World of Sports

IN the AMERICAN OBSERVER of January 3, we asked our readers' views on these questions: Is basketball placing too much emphasis on height? Do small players have a fair chance? Are changes in the rules needed?

We received a large number of replies. About 75 per cent of those who wrote us feel that the game of basketball is all right under its present rules.



"He finds it easier to dribble from the ceiling."

They say that, although height helps on the basketball court, small players can hold their own because they can usually develop greater speed than the tall ones and can often pass and dribble better.

About 25 per cent of those who replied to our queries feel that basketball is placing too much emphasis on height. There was little agreement, though, as to how the game should be changed to curb this trend.

Most of our correspondents felt that the idea of each school's having two teams—one for players of 6 feet or above, and the other for those below 6 feet—would not work out very well. It was pointed out in a number of letters that many schools with small enrollments would not have enough boys for two separate squads.

An interesting suggestion to take the emphasis off height was put forth by Jerry Rubin of Walnut Hills High School, Cincinnati, Ohio. He feels that the remedy is to award three points—rather than two—for each long goal made from beyond a certain line. "This rule," he writes, "would give the dead-eyed little fellow more chance."

## Study Guide

### Crime Situation

1. According to preliminary FBI estimates, how many serious crimes were committed in the United States during 1954?
2. So far as crime records are concerned, how did 1954 compare with previous years?
3. Give some figures showing the extent of the crime problem among young people.
4. According to law enforcement authorities, how do the motives and actions of young offenders often differ from those of older criminals?
5. Explain why it can be said that there is no simple answer to the question of what causes crime.
6. List three or more factors that tend to produce lawlessness.
7. Mention some of our major needs in the field of crime prevention.

### Discussion

1. In your opinion, what is the greatest single cause of crime and delinquency among youths? Explain your position.
2. What steps do you think should be taken to meet the problem of teen-age crime (1) in the nation as a whole? (2) in your community?

### Central America

1. Why is Central America sometimes called "the Balkans of the Americas"?
2. Briefly describe the land and the people of Central America.
3. In what way is poverty a contributing factor to unrest in Central American lands?
4. How does illiteracy help those who would seize power?
5. Why does the fact that Central America depends so heavily on two products—coffee and bananas—tend to make its governments unstable?
6. In what way has the "strong man" tradition contributed to Central America's ills?
7. What steps are necessary if this region is to have stable government?
8. Describe the role of the Organization of American States in this area.

### Discussion

1. Which of Central America's deep-seated ills do you feel should be attacked first? Why?
2. Do you think the United States should do more than it is now doing to help bring about stable governments in Central America? Why, or why not?

### Miscellaneous

1. Tell why General Matthew Ridgway, Ichiro Hatoyama, and Anastas Mikoyan are in the news.
2. Who is J. Edgar Hoover and what part does he play in the nation's fight against crime?
3. What are some of the actions taken by the 84th Congress thus far?
4. By how much has our national debt risen since 1947?
5. Why do some Americans feel we don't need better prisons? Why do other citizens differ with that point of view?
6. What is West Germany's reaction to Moscow's latest proposal for a unified Germany?

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- "Why Law Fails to Stop Teen-Age Crime," *U. S. News & World Report*, January 14, 1955.
- "U. S. Prisons," by Bill Slocum, *Nation's Business*, December 1954.
- "Behind the Turmoil in Central America," by Flora Lewis, *The New York Times Magazine*, January 23, 1955.





THE SIX CENTRAL AMERICAN REPUBLICS form a narrow link (along with the colony, British Honduras) between North and South America. Note that a part of the border between Honduras and Nicaragua is shown by dotted lines. The two nations do not agree on where the frontier line should be. We have a big stake in Central America because of the Panama Canal which we built and have controlled for many years.

## Troubled Area

(Continued from page 1)

masses of North and South America. It includes the six republics of Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama. The small colony of British Honduras is also geographically within the area.

The six republics cover about the same area as New Mexico and Colorado combined. The largest is Nicaragua, while the smallest is El Salvador. Total population of the area is a bit under 10 million. Guatemala has the most people—slightly more than 3 million.

All the republics except El Salvador extend clear across the isthmus from the Caribbean Sea to the Pacific Ocean. In the interior of these lands are jagged mountains with smoking volcanoes. On each coast are humid, jungle-covered lowlands.

Early Spanish explorers visited Central America, and for many years the region was ruled by Spain. Though these countries have been independent for more than 100 years, Spanish is still the principal language. Most of the ruling class is of Spanish descent. Only in Costa Rica, though, is a substantial part of the population—about half—made up of whites. Throughout Central America as a whole, Indians and people of mixed race make up the great bulk of the population.

Central America is mainly a farming area. The two major crops are coffee, raised on the upland slopes, and bananas, grown in the hot, steaming lowlands. For both of these crops, the United States is the main purchaser.

These are the basic facts about Central America, but they tell only a small part of the story. From the combination of land and people have

developed a number of deep-seated ills. These are the source of the turmoil that has upset the region off and on for the past 100 years—and, most recently, during the past few weeks.

**Poverty.** In every Central American country except Panama, average annual income per person is less than \$250 a year. In the rural areas, most people live a hand-to-mouth existence. Large numbers live in huts made of clay or woven palm leaves. With primitive tools, they cultivate small plots of ground where they try to raise enough corn—Central America's main food crop—for their own needs.

Those who work in the cities or on the large plantations have more cash income than the small farmers, but otherwise they are not much better off. To provide a bare minimum of food, shelter, and clothing is a never-ending task.

On the other hand, in each of these Central American lands is a small, wealthy group which owns most of the land and controls the businesses. Members of this group have fine homes and many luxuries.

Between these two extremes—the rich and the poor—there is no substantial middle class. The number of small tradesmen, office workers, and professional people has, to be sure, increased in recent years, but in most Central American countries the middle class is still not large enough to be a stabilizing force as it is in the United States and so many other lands.

Such a situation leads to unsettled government. For many years the poverty-stricken masses accepted their status passively, but in recent years there has been growing resentment, on their part. They are beginning to feel that they deserve a better life and a greater share of their countries' wealth. Their discontent makes it fairly easy for any political leader who

wants to seize power to drum up support. This situation is a major factor in the frequent revolutions that have plagued these lands.

**Lack of education.** Illiteracy goes hand in hand with poverty. Except in Costa Rica, probably not more than 30 per cent of Central Americans can read and write. Most of them know little about health and sanitation.

In most Central American nations, the majority of the people have but the slightest grasp of the duties and responsibilities of a citizen under a democratic government. Consequently, government is left to a comparatively small number in each country. Ambitious individuals who understand the mechanism of government and know how to get in power—sometimes unlawfully—often succeed with surprising ease.

**Out-of-balance economy.** Anything that contributes to hard times makes governments unstable. The workings of Central America's one-sided economy tend to have such an effect.

All these countries depend mainly on farming for their prosperity. Moreover, the emphasis in farming is mainly on two export crops—coffee and bananas. If the demand for these crops falls and prices drop, the people of Central America face hard times. There is not much else that they can turn to. Discontent and resentment against the government follow. Ruthless and ambitious politicians take advantage of it to reach their own goals.

This situation was one factor behind the recent trouble in Guatemala. Unemployment in that country is fairly severe today, and has created considerable dissatisfaction with the Castillo government.

**"Strong man" tradition.** Throughout Central America, the tradition of the "strong man"—usually a military dictator—who seizes control of the government by force of arms, lingers on. Such seizures of power have taken place frequently over the years.

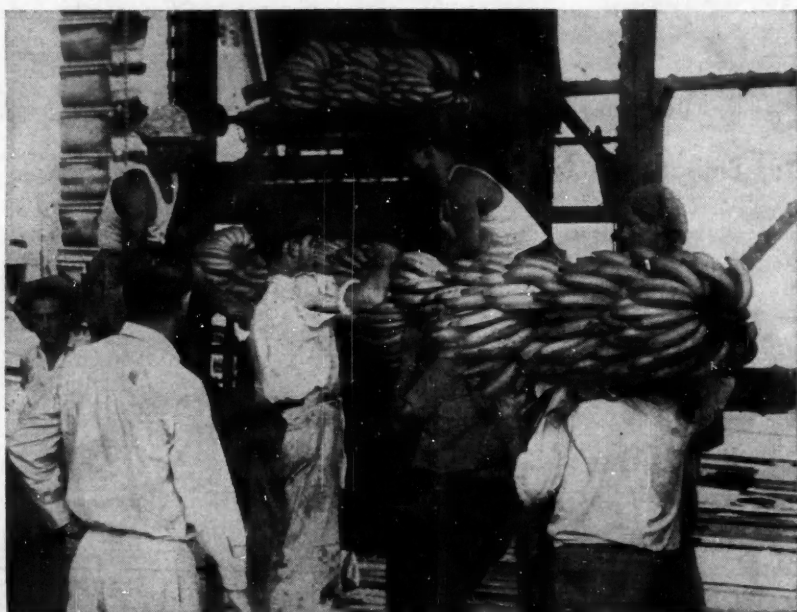
The recent trouble in Costa Rica falls into this pattern. General Calderon Guardia, Costa Rica's ruler from 1944 to 1948, tried to seize power once more.

Aggravating the situation was a bitter, personal rivalry between President Figueres of Costa Rica and President Somoza of Nicaragua. Figueres is an outspoken foe of dictators, while Somoza has kept a tight rein on personal liberties in his country. Costa Ricans charge that the rebel force which tried to overthrow its government was organized in Nicaragua.

Panama's recent troubles, too, appear to stem from a personal bid for power. After President Remón was assassinated, José Guizado, the vice president, succeeded him. An investigation indicated that Guizado's son was mixed up in the plot. Guizado himself was then ordered impeached and held for trial on charges of being involved. Just what the trial will reveal remains to be seen.

What can be done to cure Central America's ills? How can this region be assured of stable government?

Social and economic reforms are needed. Among the desired steps are the construction of more schools, the extension of better farming methods, and land reforms which will break up huge estates and assure poverty-



IN COSTA RICA. The bananas are being transferred from railroad cars to an automatic loader, thence to a ship for export to the U. S. and elsewhere.



stricken farmers of plots of their own. If these steps can be carried out, it is thought that living standards will gradually rise. With higher living standards should come more orderly government and less chance for strong men to seize power.

Costa Rica has carried out extensive reforms, and several other lands—for example, Honduras, Guatemala, and Panama—are working on such programs. There has been much delay, though, in getting the projects rolling.

Further efforts are needed to introduce new crops and industries and to reduce dependence on coffee and bananas. Some progress is being made along these lines. Cotton has become an important crop in Nicaragua as has cocoa in Costa Rica.

There is still little industry in Central America, and most of what does exist is devoted to processing farm products. However, largely untouched mineral wealth may in time form the basis for new industries. There is gold, silver, tin, iron, coal, and other mineral wealth in the mountains.

The U. S. government wants close, friendly relations with this region, and we want it to be peaceful and prosperous. Unless there is a last-minute change in plans, Vice President Nixon will be touring Central America during the next month. His goal will be to strengthen the ties between that area and the United States.

One of our closest ties is that of trade. About 75 per cent of Central America's exports come to the U. S. Approximately 70 per cent of the foreign purchases of these lands come from us.

#### U. S. Assistance

Our leaders feel the best way to help these nations is to assist them in boosting farm output, in raising health and sanitation standards, and in furthering school programs. For some years we have sent experts in these fields to Central America to help the governments of the region. Our aid last year totaled between 3 and 4 million dollars.

One thing to which we must be alert is a possible communist infiltration of the Americas by way of Central America. A year ago this time, the Reds had virtually taken over the government of Guatemala. The communists of that country were threatening to use Guatemala as a base of operations to extend their influence in this hemisphere.

Last summer Castillo Armas overthrew the pro-communist government. Today the Reds do not seem to be making much headway in Central America. However, as long as poor living conditions exist there, the communists will try to profit by them.

It may be some time before present reform programs begin to take effect throughout Central America. Until they do, the Organization of American States (OAS) will have to be alert to keep peace in this troubled area. Formed in 1948, the OAS consists of representatives of the 21 American republics. Its members are pledged to act collectively against aggression.

In the recent trouble between Costa Rica and Nicaragua, the OAS acted quickly. It sent an investigating team to Costa Rica, and the member nations of the OAS were then asked to give military aid to Costa Rica to help the little country defend itself. We turned over four fighter planes to Costa Rica, and soon thereafter the threatened invasion petered out.



**COSTA RICAN WOMEN** are cleaning and sorting coffee berries. The berries, covered with a thin skin when picked, contain the coffee beans.



**HONDURAN STUDENTS** learning to use a metal lathe. Honduras seeks by trade schools to teach its young people how to use modern machinery.



**PLAYGROUND** in Managua, the Nicaraguan capital. Central America can use many more recreation centers, as well as schools, for its young people.

## Monthly Test

**NOTE TO TEACHERS:** This test covers issues of the AMERICAN OBSERVER dated January 10, 17, 24, and 31. The answer key appears in the February 7 issue of *The Civic Leader*. Scoring: If grades are to be calculated on a percentage basis, we suggest that a deduction of 3 points be made for each wrong or omitted answer.

**DIRECTIONS TO STUDENTS:** In each of the following items, select the correct answer and write its letter on your answer sheet.

1. Our Constitution leaves the regulation of the voting age to (a) Congress; (b) the individual states; (c) the President; (d) the Department of Justice.

2. One of the most serious disagreements between Britain and the United States is over (a) trade with communist China; (b) repayment of Britain's war debt to us; (c) the building of U. S. defense bases in England; (d) Britain's opposition to the formation of a western European army.

3. President Eisenhower has asked Congress for a 3-year extension of the (a) Taft-Hartley law; (b) Wages and Hours law; (c) Reciprocal Trade Agreements act; (d) McCarran-Walter immigration law.

4. There is serious dispute over the extent to which the federal government should act as guardian and manager of our (a) natural resources; (b) national defense; (c) money system; (d) outlying territories.

5. President Eisenhower and the Defense Department plan to (a) double the size of the Air Force and cut all other services to half their present strength; (b) ask Congress to abolish the draft law; (c) fill all vacancies in the armed services with volunteers at increased rates of pay; (d) make a moderate cut in the size of our active fighting forces and expand our reserve forces.

6. U. S. leaders feel that the top men in Indonesia's government (a) have done all they can to cooperate with the free nations; (b) are doing all they can to encourage the growth of communism; (c) do not fully realize the dangers of communism; (d) fail to realize the benefits of health and education for their people.

7. In the dispute over the island of Cyprus, Britain has offered (a) to give Cyprus to Greece; (b) to give Cyprus to Turkey; (c) to withdraw all British forces from the island; (d) to give almost complete self-government to the people of Cyprus.

8. In order to cut down on the need for buying goods from other lands, Greece is (a) building factories and developing water resources for power; (b) trying to take over Turkish territory in Europe; (c) seeking large gifts of food and machinery from Russia; (d) developing her large resources of coal, copper, and uranium.

9. The treaty signed in December by Formosa and the United States provides that (a) Nationalist China and the United States are to launch joint attacks against the China mainland; (b) the United Nations is to enforce a truce between Nationalist China and Red China; (c) Mao Tse-tung and Chiang Kai-shek will share equal powers in a new government for China; (d) the United States is to go to Formosa's aid if she is attacked.

10. Wolf Ladejinsky, who was fired by the Department of Agriculture as a "security risk," is now working for the (a) State Department; (b) Foreign Operations Administration; (c) British government; (d) Senate Subcommittee on Permanent Investigations.

11. An amendment to the Constitution which would permit Americans to vote at an earlier age has been proposed by (a) the majority of members of Congress; (b) President Eisenhower; (c) the governors of 28 states; (d) former President Hoover.

12. Most observers believe that we can best aid the Indonesians by (a) supplying them with great quantities of arms and ammunition; (b) managing their government for them; (c) helping them

(Concluded on page 8)



## Monthly Test

(Concluded from page 7)

to raise their living standards; (d) withdrawing all our armed forces from the country.

13. Leading British imports include (a) food and raw materials; (b) airplanes and automobiles; (c) farm machinery and chemicals; (d) cloth and electrical goods.

14. The five Colombo Plan nations are trying to (a) prevent revolts in Latin America; (b) improve economic conditions in Asia; (c) obtain military aid from the United States; (d) draw up a new constitution for Indonesia.

15. We have given more than 400 million dollars' worth of aid to the government of (a) Ho Chi Minh; (b) Mao Tse-tung; (c) Chou En-lai; (d) Chiang Kai-shek.

16. The largest single source of funds to run the federal government is (a) excise taxes; (b) property taxes; (c) individual income taxes; (d) corporation taxes.

After the corresponding number on your answer sheet for each of the following items, write the word, name, or phrase that best completes the question.

17. From what country did Indonesia gain its independence in 1949?

18. Whom does the United States regard as the rightful leader of China?

19. Who is Britain's prime minister?

20. Sumatra, Celebes, and Java are parts of the country of \_\_\_\_\_

21. A presidential advisory committee estimates that over the next 10 years we should spend about 100 billion dollars to modernize our \_\_\_\_\_

22. Which state now permits 18-year-olds to vote?

23. Who is Britain's foreign minister?

Identify the following persons. Choose the correct description from the list below. Write the letter which precedes that description opposite the number of the person to whom it applies.

24. John Davis Lodge

25. Soekarno

26. Clare Booth Luce

27. Strom Thurmond

28. Chou En-lai

A. Senator from South Carolina

B. Director of the Budget Bureau

C. U. S. Ambassador to Spain

D. Premier of Red China

E. President of Indonesia

F. U. S. Ambassador to Italy

After the corresponding number on your answer sheet for each of the following items, write the letter of the word or phrase that makes the best definition of the word in italics.

29. The new order *supersedes* the old one. (a) improves upon; (b) conflicts with; (c) replaces; (d) revises.

30. Communism is a threat to the *tenets* of democracy. (a) beliefs and principles; (b) critics; (c) defenders; (d) judicial system.

31. He *waived* his right to a jury trial. (a) demanded; (b) was denied; (c) gave up; (d) was ignorant of.

32. Both sides believed the plan was *equitable*. (a) disagreeable; (b) fair; (c) acceptable; (d) beneficial.

33. Several tons of building material were *allocated* for the project. (a) found; (b) seized; (c) stolen; (d) distributed or assigned.

## A Career for Tomorrow -- In Visual Care

ACCORDING to the Better Vision Institute, about 7 out of every 10 adult Americans wear glasses at least part of the time. Hence, the optometrist's work—examining eyes and prescribing treatment for them—is an important and rewarding vocational field.

The optometrist should not be confused with other specialists in the visual care field. The *optician*, unlike the optometrist, does not examine eyes and prescribe lenses—he makes the lenses, measuring instruments, and frames in accordance with prescriptions prepared by an optometrist or by an oculist. The *oculist*, in addition to prescribing lenses and other forms of eye treatment, is a doctor who specializes in the medical and surgical care of the eyes.

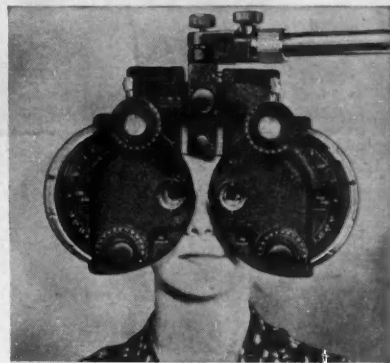
Your duties, if you choose the profession of optometry, will be to examine the eyes of your patients, determine their condition, and prescribe glasses or other corrective measures. Optometrists use various instruments for eye measurement and examination. They do not treat diseases of the eye, but refer patients to an oculist or other doctor of medicine for such care.

Your qualifications should include the ability to get along well with people. You will also need manual dexterity, for you will spend much of your time on the job working with various instruments. Finally, the optometrist must have good physical health.

Your training can be obtained in a college of optometry. In high school, you should take a college preparatory

course with emphasis on the sciences and mathematics. Next, you will be required to take two or more years of general college study before starting a four-year course in optometry.

All states require optometrists to be licensed. Because educational requirements vary from state to state, you should write to the State Board of Optometry, with offices in your state



ONE OF the instruments used by an optometrist

capital, for information on training requirements in your area. This office will also provide a list of approved schools of optometry.

Job opportunities for optometrists are likely to increase steadily in the years to come, says the U. S. Department of Labor. Most persons trained in this work go into practice for themselves. Some work as assistants to established optometrists, while a few are employed by department stores and other retail establishments.

Optometry offers excellent opportunities for women. There is a particular demand for women assistants.

Your salary will vary, depending upon whether you open your own practice or work for someone else. According to a recent nation-wide survey, the average income of the self-employed optometrist is about \$7,000 a year. Those who work for others usually earn between \$75 and \$150 a week.

Advantages are (1) the incomes are quite good; (2) the surroundings in which optometrists work are pleasant; and (3) the profession usually provides a steady income even when times are bad.

Disadvantages include the problems you will face if you plan to open your own optometry office. It takes time and money to establish a paying practice. According to the American Optometric Association, most beginning optometrists who go into business for themselves either lose money in their first few years, or their earnings are small.

Further information can be secured from the American Optometric Association, 4030 Chouteau Avenue, St. Louis 10, Missouri. This group will send you a number of free pamphlets on request.

Readers of a newspaper in Peking, China, are trying to get used to a new style of printing. Instead of running the characters up and down a page, as the Chinese have done for centuries, the newspaper is printing across the page.

## Historical Backgrounds -- Growth of Crime

THOUGH the American people always have had to contend with lawlessness and criminals, our country's crime situation (see page 1 article) has undergone various changes through the years. There are many reasons for this.

In 1790 our population was 94 per cent rural, and it was still mainly rural as late as 1910. Farmers went to cities infrequently, for roads were poor and transportation was limited. Life for farm families in our early history centered around the home, a few neighbors, and perhaps a village that could be reached fairly easily with a horse and buggy.

Today the greater share of our population lives in cities and urban areas. Large numbers of our farmers can and often do go to cities by car. Television and radio help to take vivid pictures of city life into farm homes in various regions of the country. The agricultural population has much more of an urban outlook than it had in earlier times.

In the cities, where people are crowded together, we find a high juvenile crime rate. This is especially true in connection with robbery, burglary, and other crimes against property.

Crime is increasing in rural areas, also; in fact, the increase in recent years has been at an even faster rate than in the cities. The reason may be, in part at least, that farmers today are under most of the same influences as are city people.

While America was mainly a rural nation, juvenile delinquency wasn't

much of a worry. Farm youngsters were kept extremely busy working in the fields and caring for livestock. In the cities 50 and more years ago, thousands of boys and girls worked long hours in mills and factories. They had little time to play or to get into trouble.

Furthermore, early American families spent more of their time together than do those of today. On the farms, parents and children worked as a group in the fields and were a group at home. In the cities, too, there were fewer distractions than now, and members of the family were likely to be home together very often in the evenings. In general, children were under close supervision.

Today, more young people go to

school for longer periods than was formerly the case and fewer of them have full-time jobs. Many do work hard in school and at part-time jobs, of course. Yet it is probable that American young people enjoy more freedom and more leisure than youth anywhere ever has known before. This is true on the farm, as well as in the city, for modern agricultural machinery has lessened the task of growing crops.

The leisure that is available today offers a sharp challenge to youth. If young people are to keep their freedom and leisure, they must recognize the responsibility for using it properly. If the present upward trend of juvenile crime continues, youths will be faced with increasing restrictions.

There is likewise a sharp challenge for parents in handling juvenile delinquency. In recent years, parents and children have spent a greater share of their time apart from each other. Both mother and father now frequently hold jobs away from home. In the evenings, parents and children are likely to take their recreation separately. Parental supervision of children has diminished.

Television, although accused by some of having a bad influence on young people, is now bringing thousands of families together in the homes for evening entertainment, and this is an encouraging development. Parents should spend as much time as they can with their children, set a good example for them, keep informed of their outside activities, and make home life enjoyable and constructive.



THE DRAWING shows Benjamin Franklin, 17, arriving in Philadelphia to work in the early 1700's. As youth's working responsibilities have decreased, crime among young people has increased.